

# MAINE

# FARMER

AGRICULTURE

MECHANIC ARTS

GENERAL

INTELLIGENCE

VOL XX.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING,

MARCH 18, 1852.

NO. 12.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

CHEST FOUNDER AND CRIB-BITTING.

In answer to the queries of our correspondent D. T. S. we would say, that respecting chest founder there seems to be a diversity of opinions. Some think it is confined wholly to the "cheat," some to the feet. It is undoubtedly a diseased condition of the whole locomotive apparatus of the fore end of the horse. Let us examine into the causes and subsequent appearances of it. A horse is driven furiously till his system is heated to an unnatural degree—the circulating system is overstrained by the unnatural rush of the blood through it, for increased animal motion always requires an increased flow of blood, or rather an increased speed of blood through the blood-vessels—the muscles and tendons are overstrained by an unnatural long continued action. The horse then is stopped and commonly allowed to drink what he desires of cold water, and is perhaps placed in a cold stable, so that he suffers the effects of an opposite extreme. He takes cold, as we say, and has rheumatism. When put in motion he exhibits a shivering, to use a familiar and expressive phrase, in his feet, in his legs, in his shoulders—the steps as it were, in places his feet hesitatingly on the ground, limping and bowing his head, and sometimes tripping along, and if he could speak, would probably say, as we often hear some bipeds say, "Oh, dear! how it hurts me to move!"

Now what is the best remedy for this? Why, nothing in particular, but a great many things in general. First, let nature have some chance in the operation to bring back the required original condition of the system. Give him rest, confined with occasional moderate exercise, and such food as will be nutritious and laxative in its effect. If in winter, judicious clothing,—by this we mean putting on a shoe that will set easily, and not cramp the hoof in any way. If in summer, knock the shoes off, and let the horse run in a pasture where the turf is smooth and comparatively soft,—bathing the feet, legs, and chest, and rubbing freely. In short, pursue such a course of diet and regimen as common sense will dictate, in order to bring back, as soon as may be, the original healthy action of those parts of the system that have been abused and injured.

As for cribbing, or crib-biting, the cause of it has never been fully explained. It is not probable that a horse gets into such a habit through mere wantonness, or love of being odd. It is very natural to suppose that this action is first commenced and perhaps continued to relieve some unpleasant feeling somewhere about the mouth or throat. The teeth may at first be sore or ache, or the muscles or other organs of the throat become cramped or take on diseased action which induces the horse to apply his teeth, and bite or press, for a moment, some thing hard that is near by. It is not always that they bite,—in some cases we have seen them stop eating, and merely press the teeth hard against the top of the manger, and appear to suck in wind,—when horses do this they are called "wind suckers," in contradistinction to crib-biting, but we consider it only a varied form of the same disease.

Ignorance of the true cause of this action of the horse, keeps us in the dark in regard to the remedy. Hence a variety of prescriptions are made to cure it, and of course with little success.

Buckling a strap or throat latch, as it is called, lightly around the throat, sometimes prevents it. The N. E. Farmer recommends the following to the notice of those who have horses afflicted in this way:

"PREVENTION OF CRIB-BITTING. This is a habit to which some horses are subject, and sometimes become so injurious to the animal as to constitute 'legal unsoundness.' A remedy has been discovered by Sir Peter Laurie, of London, which the Illustrated News says is simple and efficient. The animal seizes violently the manger or some other fixture with his teeth, arching his neck, and sucking in a quantity of air with peculiar noise. This habit is most frequent in young horses, or such as are highly fed or overworked, and curious enough, appears to be contagious, as one confirmed crib-biter will inoculate others with the practice, if allowed to associate. Muzzles, neck-ropes, and several ingenious contrivances, have been used, with but little success. Sir Peter's remedy simply consists in preventing the animal from seizing the manger or any other object while tied up in the stable, by boarding over the space between the bottom of the hay-rack and the outer edge of the manger, forming a steep inclined plane. Portions of the boards can be partially removed to enable the horse to eat at stated times. This simple precaution is said by the most eminent authorities to be perfectly effectual in the prevention or cure of crib-biting."

## GRAIN DRILL.

Those in this vicinity who desire to see an excellent machine for sowing wheat and other grain in rows or drills, can have an opportunity of doing so by calling down to the Rotunda of the State House.

This drill belongs to friend J. D. Lang, of Vassalboro', who introduced it on his farm last fall, and used it in drilling in his winter wheat. Mr. Lang found it to work exceedingly well, and in order that the farmers of Maine might see it, he has taken the pains to bring it down here for the examination of those who are interested in agricultural improvements.

For one, and in behalf of many others, we thank him for taking this trouble, and we have no doubt it will be the means of introducing more of those useful machines into Maine.

This machine is the invention and manufacture of Bickford & Haffman, of Macedon, N. Y.

Truly "Wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

## FLAX AND FLAX COTTON.

We have often called the attention of the farmers of Maine to the subject of flax growing, and also the preparation of this flax into linen fibre and also into what is technically called "flax cotton." We are aware, as we have often stated, that the principal reason why the culture of flax is so far abandoned in Maine is because there has been comparatively no market for it. Every farmer in Maine knows that he can raise flax to any amount, and do it profitably, provided he can be sure of a market, even at a not very high price. We, of the United States, with all our power of raising flax to almost any amount, nevertheless neglect to do it, and depend upon Holland and Ireland for nine-tenths of the linen of every quality. Circumstances which we need not here mention have forced us into this state of things.

We think, however, that there are signs of a change in this condition of things. The improvements that have been made, and are being made in the culture, preparation of the fibre with so much less labor and expense than formerly, and the recent improvements of Claussen and others, in converting the flax fibre into a species of cotton, are arresting the attention of the people of the United States to the subject of flax manufacture.

We have recently received from a friend a little pamphlet of eight pages, entitled "The cultivation of Flax and preparation of Flax Cotton by the Chevalier Claussen Process."

It is addressed to the "Agriculturists and capitalists of the United States." Accompanying it is a fair specimen of the flax cotton, prepared by Claussen's method, and it gives a condensed statement of the condition of the present state of the flax business and the signs of the times in regard to the attention that is being given to this matter in different sections of the Union. In order to aid in the promotion of this great and important object, we give it the readers of the Farmer, hoping that they will give it a careful perusal and become well posted up on it.

NEW YORK, March 1, 1852.

The subject of Flax Culture in the United States, and its preparation by the Chevalier Claussen process for spinning on cotton and woolen machinery, engrosses at present a considerable share of attention amongst nearly all classes of the community.

Hitherto we have been dependent on foreign importations for supplies of both the raw and manufactured article. The immense amount of labor expended on flax, from the time it is prepared for spinning on flax machinery, has been such as to preclude the possibility of raising it to advantage in competition with the foreign. Formerly, when allowed to seed, the straw was thrown away as useless; but by the Claussen process, both straw and seed are equally valuable, and the old mode of pulling can be substituted by mowing or by the reaping machine.

The soil best suited for its growth is a black loam, having a substratum of sand or clay. It grows on almost all kinds of soil; even on the sides of gravelly hills, good crops have been raised, but the latter kind of soil is better for seed than straw. Deep ploughing and thorough cleaning are essential to its healthy growth. Many consider flax to be a very exhausting crop, but English and Scotch farmers have found by experience that it does not impoverish the soil so much as wheat. No soil, with the exception of our Western prairies and valleys, will bear cropping year after year with the same kind of grain, without returning to the soil a portion of the principal ingredients extracted from it. Flax can be raised annually on the poorest description of soil, provided it is manured with the excrements coming from animals fed on flax-straw and oil-cake or oil-seed meal.

A practical English farmer gives the following as the results of his experience in flax-growing: Quantity sown to an acre, 2½ bushels. Quantity of seed raised to the acre, 20½ tons. Even 22 bushels of seed and 23 tons of straw are not considered a heavy yield.

The Indiana Journal says: "A farmer in Preble county, Ohio, this season raised 63 bushels of flax-seed on 3 acres and 10 rods of ground, being over 22½ bushels to the acre. This, with the prospect of flax cotton manufacturing in this country, will indicate a prosperous business."

I know of no crop more profitable for a farmer to raise at the present moment than that of flax. Say that he could raise no more than 18 bushels to the acre, and 1½ tons of straw, and calculating the former at \$1.25 per bushel, and the straw at \$5 per ton, and deducting 2 bushels for seed, it would amount to \$29.25 per acre. If the farmers in this country could be prevailed upon to sow more seed to an acre, the results would be found well worthy of trying the experiment. If the Archangel and Riga seed can be had, I would recommend its use for the first sowing.

It is the intention of one of our most extensive farmers in Indiana (Henry L. Ellsworth, Esq., late Commissioner of Patents) to sow 500 acres under flax the coming spring, and a proprietor in England is now preparing 3000 acres reclaimed from the sea, for the same object. In Great Britain and Ireland, not more than 150,000 acres were sown under flax during the past year, whereas her manufacturers consume the growth of 700,000 acres. The guaranty given by English Flax Cotton Companies and Proprietors to the farmers to purchase their flax of them at fair rates, has induced the latter to double the extent generally laid aside for that object.

The quantity of linen goods imported into this country in the form of shirtings, drillings, duck, thread, &c., is hardly credible, as well as of linseed for crushing, and linseed-oil, &c. Now, while provided with so bountiful a soil as this country is blessed with, and having no rack-rents to pay, as the English and Irish farmers have, I see no reason why we should not be exporters rather than importers of the above-mentioned articles. The quantity of oil-cake alone which England would purchase of us, would amount to several million dollars.

It is with pleasure we look round and see the few Linen Thread Factories that have sprung up in the States of New-York and Connecticut within the past year or two. There is F. W. Farnam & Co., of Cohoes, who received a gold medal

from the American Institute for Tailor's Thread, at the last Fair; the Lancaster Company; Wilimantic Linen Company, whose Shoe Threads surpass any imported; Smith, Dove & Co., Andover, Massachusetts, and several other Shoe Thread manufacturers; all of whom depend more or less on European countries for supplies of flax. A company has been recently organized for manufacturing Linen Fabrics at Fall River, with a capital of \$500,000, and it is to be hoped many more will follow their example.

No person who has seen the samples of Flax Cotton exhibited by Mr. E. G. Roberts, 68 Pine street, (one of the proprietors of Chevalier Claussen's patent for this country,) as well as of Cluhs, Hosier, &c., manufactured therefrom in connection with wool and with cotton, and by itself, but will be at once convinced of the feasibility of carrying out the Claussen process in the United States, and becoming independent of foreign importations of the coarser kinds of Linen Goods, and the adaptation of Flax Cotton to mix with wool or cotton.

For information regarding the process of converting Flax into Flax Cotton, and the cost of cottonizing it, I refer you to the following account, taken from the London Morning Chronicle, dated December 5, 1851, of an exhibition of the process at the Chevalier Claussen's Flax Cotton Works at Stepney Green, near London:

"It is now about twelve months since we first announced the fact of several important inventions in connection with the preparation and manufacture of flax, the principal of which was a mode of treatment by which the fibre could be so prepared as to be spun either alone or in combination with cotton, wool, or silk, upon the machinery at present employed in the manufacture of yarns and fabrics formed of those substances. At that period the operations were but experimental in their character; as, however, the whole of the chemical and manipulative processes were fully and completely explained to us, we were convinced, as well from their extreme simplicity as from the beauty of unerring principles upon which they were founded, that the object sought would ultimately be most satisfactorily obtained. Considering the immense benefits which the invention, if carried out, would confer upon the great agricultural and manufacturing interests, as well as the laboring classes of the country, we were disposed to consider the discovery of the Chevalier Claussen as one of great national importance, and watched with peculiar interest the progress of its development. Our statements of the successes which attended the various experiments were received at first with a considerable amount of incredulity by many who conceived that they had already attained to the highest state of perfection, and that further improvement in the preparation of flax was impossible. The talented inventor was called upon to contend with a larger amount of opposition and difficulty than even usually falls to the lot of those who by their inventive genius are most worthy benefactors of a country."

The flippancy, however, of some acquainted but superficially with the subject, who denied every thing, but disproved nothing; the rashness of others, who, under the pretence of excessive caution, condemned without inquiry; the determined hostility of the interested, and the obtuseness of the ignorant, have, however, now almost completely passed away. The Chevalier Claussen was evidently not a man to be easily 'put down,' nor readily daunted by trifles, beneath which thousands of others might have succumbed. Although, for reasons which we need not now explain, and of which few are more heartily ashamed than the jurors themselves, the inventor of a process which would relieve our manufacturers from their present state of dependence upon foreign countries for the supply of their raw material; open to our agriculturists a constant and remunerative market for a new and valuable crop; and assist in providing the means of constant employment for the laboring population, and a consequent diminution of the burden of pauperism, was not considered worthy in the late 'Great Industrial Exhibition' of a higher honor than that awarded to the exhibitor of 'a box of sweetmeats,' or a bottle of 'Lamb's-tail oil.' M. Claussen, nothing daunted, and conscious of the value of his invention, proceeded quietly and undisturbed to fit up with steam and the necessary apparatus extensive premises formerly occupied as the work-house in Stepney Green, for the purpose of illustrating not only the practicability of his plan, but to challenge the most searching investigation into its commercial value. The whole of these arrangements were yesterday completed, and cards of invitation were issued to several noblemen, eminent members of scientific professions, and others interested in the promotion of an extended flax culture in the country."

[The remainder of the pamphlet we will publish next week.]

Written for the Maine Farmer.

## THE HORSE.

The horse is a noble animal. In the performance of business or the pursuit of pleasure, he affords more aid to man than any other domestic animal. After all that is said of the wonders of the iron-horse, in this age of railroad travelling, the genuine horse—the horse of flesh and blood—furnishes the most pleasurable mode of conveyance over the fertile plains and beautiful hills of our New England. What is more delightful and exhilarating, when the sky is clear, the air salubrious, or a gentle north-west wind sweeps over the land, in summer or winter, than a drive in sleigh, buggy or saddle, with a fleet horse and good companions, "over the hills and far away!" It is a luxury which any one will enjoy. Yet how few justly estimate the noble creature, by whose strength they are transported over the hills and through the dales. There are none, perhaps, who are not anxious enough to put a sufficiently high price on him in dollars and cents. But this is the lowest and meanest sense in which man can estimate God's creatures, which he has made for our help and enjoyment. None but a sordid, earth-born spirit will prize all good just as it is graduated by the standard of dollars. There is something grand and inestimable in the symmetrical, spirited, intelligent, affectionate horse. Of course, I apply these terms to the qualities which they represent as seen in the horse—not meaning to express as much by them as when applied to man. If the horse does not know as much as man, and is not as affectionate,

one horse knows more and has a better disposition than another. And if these qualities do not ally him to man, they show at least the impress of that benevolent and wise Power, who is alike the Creator of the horse and the man, each to fulfill a purpose and move in his particular sphere. Who, with a right estimate of the horse, could have a heart to abuse him? And yet I hardly know where we can find a more wronged and outraged than in the treatment of the horse. He is over-tasked, exposed to heats and colds, and often beaten and bruised unmercifully. Most of the horses to be met with are suffering, and must suffer for life, the effect of abuse and bad management. The man who will willingly abuse a horse, ought to be tied to the tail of the poor animal which he has wronged, and he dragged through seven cities. There is no creature which will better pay his owner for care and kind treatment, to say nothing of humanity and mercy, than the horse.

I have a horse in my possession which is a victim of ignorance or barbarity, or perhaps of both. I obtained him of a gentleman who has just brought him from Vermont. He is a high spirited, fine made, fleet horse, called seven years old. The gentleman told me his first seven years were a little pinched, and that was all that ailed him; and there he chafed in twenty days—that he never went lame. I found, however, on first starting him, that he had unfortunately become suddenly quite lame, if never before. On consulting a farrier, he told me the trouble was in the chest, caused by watering and grain, when hot, after hard driving: he thought there was no remedy. What say, Mr. Farmer—is it so? If any thing can be done to relieve the sufferings of the poor creature, it ought to be done. The horse performs well, but still he must suffer. I have commenced applying cold water frequently and freely to the chest, legs and feet, when his blood is cool, and I think with a little beneficial effect. Can I do any thing better?

I found also that he had what people call cribbing. It is something new to me. Some say it is a habit, and others a disease. Can any one tell me what it is? And is there any remedy? When eating, he will frequently seize his crib with his teeth, and give a grip and a groan, as if to relieve him of pain.

D. T. S.

## POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

MR. EDITOR.—It is generally conceded that the diffusion of knowledge among the people is of immense importance. We may hail the rapid spread of intelligence as a good omen, and although our country is ranked among the most enlightened nations of the earth, still much remains to be done. It has often been said that a most necessary part of knowledge is to unlearn our errors. Men highly gifted and distinguished for their attainments in knowledge, and who consequently wield great influence, are often held in bondage by prejudices. Like a contagious disease, prejudice spreads itself into every department of society, and often even truth is made to appear contemptible.

Prejudice, indeed, is one of the greatest obstacles which stand in the way of our national prosperity—one of the dangerous foes which threaten our national safety. Differences of opinions exist in reference to political matters, and we can suppose that one class of men can be always right, and another always wrong? If we were to name contending parties, it is proper enough to observe that these are often at least partly upon the side of truth and partly upon the side of error, and the question may be whether we shall not hold fast to that which is good in political as well as other matters.

In a country so extensive as ours, there must be diversity of interests and different modes of thinking will often prevail, but to promote harmony in feeling would seem to be of the utmost importance. There would be no harm if we should just name sectional jealousies—these perhaps are more the result of prejudice than any other cause. We should consider our country as one great whole. By removing prejudices, and by adopting a wise and just policy, the causes for animosity will cease to exist—the different sections of our great republic will become cemented by ties which are not to be severed. Agriculture, which, in every point of view, is the chief interest of our country, and the strongest pillar of her republican institutions, will receive an impetus unknown in any age or nation. Every other interest will receive a corresponding increase in strength. By wise policy we may not only be the most powerful, but, (what must be acknowledged of vital importance), the happiest nation known in the history of mankind.

But possibly we may have some men, distinguished indeed for their patriotism, who may exercise an influence upon public opinion, which may prove unfortunate in its results. We may indulge the hope, however, that at length the right influences may prevail, and that all will be led to rejoice in view of the exalted destiny of our republic, under the auspices of a wise and glorious Providence.

JOHN E. ROLFE.

Rumford, March, 1852.

## WINTER WHEAT.

MR. EDITOR.—I have noticed a call in the Maine Farmer for information as to the quantity of winter wheat raised in each school district—a request I should be pleased to see responded to. I will state that there were raised the past season in the Union School District, Keith's Mills, (formed of a part of the towns of Farmington and Chesterville,) sixty-five bushels—rather small to begin the list, but few have ventured to try the experiment. There was considerable put in last fall. Should it do as well this season as it has for the last two, the people, I think may be tempted to New York to sow.

I think it will do better to sow it early, so as to let it get rooted well before winter. I have it growing, (or had last fall,) the third crop on the same ground. The second crop was nearly double that of the first.

JOHN MORRISON.

Farmington, March 8, 1852.

A rich bachelor of New Jersey recently died, leaving by will several legacies, of from ten to twenty-five thousand dollars each, to ladies whom he had addressed, but who had rejected him. He said that he had afterwards grown so ugly that he could not be sufficiently grateful.

## Written for the Maine Farmer.

### MY UNCLE TIM.

BY CALLED COLTER.

My Uncle Tim, Tim Colter, was esteemed wherever known. For those good qualities of heart and head so seldom shown; A kindly heart and helping hand he carried all his days, And common sense dictated him in all his works and ways.

My Uncle Tim was never rich, but yet he e'er possessed A competence,—'twas all he wished, and never was distressed. For ill he feared the future had laid up for him in store; He did his best and trusted heaven;—what mortal can do more!

A farmer was my Uncle Tim—a farmer good and plain; And peace and plenty ever smiled on Uncle Tim's domain. His lawns were crowded with the fruits of many a well tilled field,— His home was happy made by all his industry could yield.

Old-fashioned was my Uncle Tim—he wore a wide rimmed hat, A plain old-fashioned drab surtout and home-made checked cravat; Methinks I see his high backed sleigh, with the well mounded fill, With him in it, drawn by that grey mare, also trusting off to mill.

When young, how oft I sought his home, true happiness to find, And tarried there day after day, Aunt Hannah was so kind, She'd take me to the orchard—the big orchard on the hill, And greedily with choicest fruits my pockets I would fill.

But Uncle Timothy, at last, like all, grew old and died, Aunt Hannah, too, not long ago, we buried by his side; The counsel they have given me are given on my mind, Their like, while on life's pilgrimage, I never more shall find.

ARCADE, March 1, 1852.

## TROTTER HORSES IN AMERICA.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I read in your paper of January 10th, an article on the "American trotting horse," and the formation of a joint stock company, for the purpose of breeding fast horses, in which your correspondent B. expresses a doubt of success. He alludes to some remarks of Mr. Skinner. I am confident that Mr. S. was perfectly correct in saying that, generally, the trotting horses of this country originated in imported stock. Mr. Woodruff either misunderstood the enquiry, or was unwilling to acknowledge, that the great majority of the American trotting stock descended from imported blood horses; as proof of this fact, I give the names of some of them.

"Messenger," I read, was imported into the State of New York, about 1793 or 4, there he passed for several years, when he was sent into Maine, and there became the sire of a number of animals of remarkable properties; and that stock, it is said, is still kept nearly pure; his descendants have commanded the highest prices, and have been capable of the greatest achievements. And I will here name some of them. Maine has, as is well known, furnished nearly all the trotting stock of any note in the country, until within a few years.

Lady Suffolk, by imported horse Engineer, from a Messenger mare. The Lady's performances are unequalled in the annals of trotting, she having won more matches to saddle and harness, than any other horse living, and against the best trotting and pacing horses in the United States. She is now in her twentieth year, and her performances, even during the last season, were remarkable.

Trustee, by imported Trustee, and from the Eastern Messenger mare called "Fanny Pullen." Trustee trotted the unprecedented match of twenty miles, in harness within the hour, for a bet of \$500, to \$1000, which he won in 29 minutes, 35 seconds. Oct. 20th, 1818, over the Union course, Long Island. He has since trotted three miles to harness, in 7 minutes and 45 seconds; which time has only been beaten in one instance. Blood will tell!

We have, also, an "Hector" and an "Ajax," by the the thorough bred horse, Abdallah; the performances of Hector and Ajax at Long Island, Philadelphia, Cambridge and elsewhere are too well known to require comment, and then we have, "Rhode Island," by the thorough bred Napoleon. The speed and bottom of "Rhode Island" were tested most satisfactorily, the last season; and also, "Chataque Chief," whose pedigree we do not know, but have no doubt he is a horse of superior breeding, as his performances the past season prove.

As the descendants of old Messenger of Maine, we would name Fanny Pullen, Lady Swan, Henry, La Fayette, Celeste, Ice Pony, Tom Benton, Independence, D. D. Tompkins, Zachary Taylor and Mac; these are some of the known "good ones" of the East. We have, many "good ones," from the imported horses, Hambleton, and Mambino, of more recent date. Admitting that the old Messenger stock is in its purity, nothing can exceed it in performances of speed and endurance.

If a joint stock company should direct their attention to a proper selection of sires and dams, it will, doubtless, succeed, but now, almost every man who owns a tolerable mare, imagines he possesses something unequalled, and that by raising from such mares anything in the shape of a horse, it will meet with a ready sale; in this way, the country will soon be filled with a worthless race of animals, for *similis similibus gaudet*; that is, like delights in like. What is here written was hastily prepared and without notes. I shall be happy to add all I can to facilitate your useful object, for I well know the importance of keeping distinct, and of cherishing the pure English blood, the excellence of which has been so satisfactorily tested and proved.

[Boston Cultivator.]

\*This is a mistake. It was a son of his that came into Maine. ED. ME. FARMER.

Heat is necessary for the formation of bodies as for their destruction. The first impulse given to life in the seed is by heat, and this must be its constant attendant. The moment heat is abstracted, growth ceases.

## THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

We copy the following article from the Germantown Telegraph. The writer is Rev. John Wilkinson, a scientific and practical agriculturist, and the well-known principal of the Mount Airy Agricultural Institute, at Germantown, Pa. "An experience of some twenty-five years in the culture of this valuable esculent, with a series of experiments averaging perhaps three for every year, which have been carefully noted and preserved, has induced the belief that the following deductions are logical and practicable, and worthy of the attention of every farmer.

The lighter or more friable the soil, the deeper should the seed be planted, but the depth should always be governed by the depth of the fertile soil, as it would be fatal to plant them below it.

The manure for potatoes should always be placed in contact and immediately around the seed; it need not cover a circle of a diameter of more than twelve or fourteen inches. It is bad economy, particularly on light, porous soils, to spread the manure broadcast and plow it under, or to rake it into the furrows in which the seed is placed; for in the first instance, only that portion of the manure that chanced to be spread on the furrow that is to be turned directly on the seed, benefits the crop in the least; and when raked in, only the straw or long, undecomposed portions are placed in the furrow with the seed, while unavoidably by far the most valuable portions of the manure, the fine and well decomposed parts, fall into the inequalities of the land, and are consequently turned in with the furrows between the seed furrows, and it being already nearly resolved is, on light soils, entirely lost ere the crop succeeding the potatoes would require it, which alone, if any, can be benefited by it. Besides this waste of manure, the incumbent crop suffers much for want of that very portion wasted, which, if applied avails, would have furnished the immediate supply of allment required to secure prompt and rapid growth in its early stages, so desirable to enable it to get the ascendancy of the land so particularly essential to this crop.

It is however equally important to have a proper portion of the manure in a long or undecomposed state when applied, that it may be resolved into an available aliment at that period when the largest amount of manure is required to develop the new crop of tubers. In the application of manure or food for vegetation, the same principles are to be observed that should be, in furnishing food to animals. No farmer would think of putting before his horse provender for a season or year, and expect the animal to do as well as if his food was administered in proper messes and at proper periods. The wants of the animal are daily, and through life, and the same is the case with the plant. What reason would there be then for placing within reach of the mouths of the plant such food as it could not imbibe, or a greater quantity of proper food than it required at any period of its growth, thus exposing it to waste, and expect the plant ultimately to derive as much benefit as if the necessary amount was administered as needed!

All will admit that there is no reason in such a course, nevertheless that course is pursued by farmers generally, and even by those who make great pretensions not only as practical men, but even by those who profess to be men of science, and are habitual volunteer instructors or lecturers whenever and wherever they can get an audience, and whose pens are ever ready to vent their vanity and furnish voluminous articles founded on ignorance, absurdity and error, with which to disgrace the pages and disgust the readers of our best agricultural journals. But to my subject.

The course that I have pursued for the past three years in planting and manuring my potatoes, where I have used barn-yard manure, has been to plant a clover key if possible, to sow the land with a half bushel of gypsum per acre, (which is all that I apply to any crop,) early in spring, and then wait until the clover has grown to the length of some three or four inches, when I proceed to plant with all possible dispatch—early planting being indispensable to success in potato production.

If practicable, I plough the lot lengthwise, and all one way, except the head lands, which I plant transversely, always marking them out a certain number of furrows from the fences (say fourteen feet wide) the first operation. Then lay out the whole field into lands of uniform width, so that the short rows, if there are any, will all be less than thirty yards in width, so as to avoid making many dead or open furrows, which are always unsightly in sward tillage, and are serious obstacles to uniformity in planting potatoes in the furrow. Having turned a back furrow, or struck out a land, the seed should be placed in the first two furrows, and under the edge of the furrow slice, as the application of the manure will be attended with less difficulty on this side than the other, and if placed in the middle of the furrow the seed is liable to be trodden on or displaced by the team.

I apply the manure by carting it to the side of the furrow in a low, long wagon, from which it may be taken with ease and convenience by three or four laborers at the same time, without getting upon the vehicle, and fork it into the furrows, covering the seed with it, which effectually prevents its being displaced. The manure is carted to the field and placed in compact heaps during the previous winter. Having placed the seed and manure as above described, two furrows are ploughed and the seed placed in the second—and I thus proceed until the work is completed.

I have found by repeated experiments that as many potatoes can be grown in each furrow when they are planted in every one, as there can be when they are planted in every second or third one, provided they are kept from weeds; but this can only be done by manual labor exclusively, which will not pay, particularly if the crop should decay. Immediately after the planting process is completed, I roll the ground thoroughly, and let it lie for eight or ten days, when I go over the entire surface lengthwise of the furrows, with a "gang plow" drawn by two animals, which tills a belt of four feet in width and any depth desired, though I set it for about two inches, having ploughed in the seed about four inches, which is a good depth in light, sandy loam soil.

The next operation is to harrow with a light, sharp-toothed harrow, working only in the dry

part of the day, which I continue at intervals until all the grass and weeds are destroyed, and the stems of the potatoes are from one to three inches in height; after which they will not require but one good thorough tilling with the horse-hoe around the plants, except to remove by hand the large weeds after the potato stems have shed their blossoms; these are thrown down between the rows, after the earth is shaken from the roots, where they lie until the time of harvesting, when others that may have grown subsequently are mowed off, and all raked up with the horse-rake into rows, and burned on the ground after a portion of the crop is harvested.

The harvesting operation is best performed by ploughing the land with the same plow with which they are planted, and plough in the same direction, turning the back furrows into the open one made in planting. When the furrow is ploughed in which the potatoes are, each of the potatoes as may be visible should be picked up, after which a common one-horse cultivator should be passed up and down the same furrow, picking up after it each way. This being done, the whole surface should be harrowed and picked again, after which the gleaner will get a slim share.

The largest yield and the best quality of potatoes that I have ever produced, were manured with barn-yard manure, thirty two-horse loads, and soda ash and lime from the soap manufactory, 200 bushels per acre. The soap-makers' waste costs 5 cts. per bushel, and was strewn on the manure after it was placed in the furrow.

I am satisfied that 30 per cent. less manure is required to produce a full crop of potatoes on a good clover ley of two years' standing, than is on either a timothy or orchard-grass sward; and I am also satisfied that this difference in favor of the clover will continue throughout the rotation. If a good crop of clover can be produced on land and is turned in when in blossom, I prefer it to a dressing of twenty cords of common farm-yard manure, or ten of good stable manure. But if the land is allowed to lie until the clover roots are thrown out by frost and killed, little or no benefit is derived from it. No practical farmer of my acquaintance has ever turned in a full crop of clover, tops and all, as a manure, without concluding that it is of all methods the most economical and efficient to fertilize land. But the ploughing in of clover in blossom, in the cultivation of the cereals, is only practicable in preparing land for winter grain; as this period of the growth of the clover is too late in the season for spring crops, though it is in time for ruta bagas and turnips, and makes the very best bed for them.

## CALVES.

MR. EDITOR.—The raising of calves is a subject of much interest to all of us farmers. Man who have had considerable experience in the business, have expressed various opinions as to the best and most economical method to be pursued; some contending strenuously for the "natural way" as they are pleased to denominate it; that is to say, allowing the calves to run a certain period with their dams; while others assert with equal pertinacity, that a much better way is to separate them from their mothers when a few days old, and "raise them by hand." The former will of course take the advantages and disadvantages of these antagonistic systems into careful consideration before granting suffrage to either; for it may be remarked that the cost of raising calves is an item of no trivial magnitude, especially where large numbers are raised annually, as is the case on many of our farms.

And yet the question of preference in regard to the rival methods, is one which, after all, must be mainly determined by the circumstances of time and place; for, while in some localities, the value of the milk, butter and cheese, which the cow would produce, would be worth more than the calf; in others it would scarcely more than defray the cost of manufacturing, while the calf would be valuable





R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

AUGUSTA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1882.

## QUERIES RESPECTING THE SCHOOL LAW.

We received from a correspondent, not long since, a query in regard to a point in our school law. Not having answered it, he again writes as follows:—"I have, as yet, been unable to find expressed in your paper, your opinion of the duties of the committee constituted by law to report to the town a written statement of facts, in case of a proposed division of a school district. (School law, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Provision.) You would confer a favor on said committee, by stating what particular facts, aside from the territorial extent of the district, number of scholars, &c., should be reported. There is no end to the facts that may be stated, or that they may be required to state by designing men, and the Legislature should set this provision right, and take it out of the power of selfish, designing men."

We have examined the provision of the school law referred to, and have also had some conference with one of the Board of Education. It is his opinion, and we think he is right, that these matters are evidently left to the good sense and good judgment of the committee to whom such questions are referred. There may arise instances where the committee overstep the bounds of prudence, and bring on matters in the shape of a report of facts wholly irrelevant to the subject referred to them. The law, however, cannot be framed so as to meet every case, and therefore it can only give discretionary powers to committees, with general directions for their action.

## SELF-WINDING CLOCK.

After years of mathematical labor and mechanical results, Professor Willis, of Rochester, N. Y., has completed and has now in constant operation, a self-winding clock, which determines the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years of time, with unfailing accuracy, continuing in constant motion, by itself, never requiring to be wound up, never running down, but moving perpetually, so long as its components exist. So says the Rochester Democrat.

The above has been announced as a new invention, and, as far as Prof. Willis is concerned, it probably is. The records of Connecticut will, however, show that before the United States had established a Patent Office, application was made to the State Government for an exclusive right to a similar invention.

*To the Honorable, &c. The petition of Benjamin Hanks, of Litchfield, humbly sheweth to your honors:*—That your petitioner, after unwearying trouble, pains and study, for a number of years now last past, in search of mechanical knowledge, not only for his own pleasure and amusement, but for the benefit of mankind, has made a large improvement thereon, by inventing, contriving, and executing a clock or machine that winds itself up by help of air, and will continue so to do, without any other aid or assistance, until the component parts thereof are destroyed by friction, and which will keep the most regular time of any machine yet invented, as it is ever wound up without any variation or stop to her motion, and consequently not only a great ornament, but improvement in mechanism, which your honors' petitioner will submit to your honors, and beg them to take the matter into their wise consideration; and as he has been at great pains, trouble and expense, in accomplishing the same, that they would generously grant unto your petitioner the sole and exclusive right and privilege of making and vending said kind of clocks for the term of fourteen years, or some other way, &c.

BENJAMIN HANKS.

Dated at Litchfield, this 6th day of October, A. D. 1753. Granted.

## PAINTING WITH MILK INSTEAD OF OIL.

We remember in former days, that some people used to paint in different colors by using skinned milk instead of oil. This would not stand weather, and was merely used for work that is protected from rains and sun. We have been requested to publish a recipe for painting in this way. The Farmer & Mechanic of New York, contains the following direction. It says that this mode of painting has been used with success in Europe. It is made from milk and lime, has no smell, and dries quickly:

Take fresh curd and bruise the lumps on a grinder, or in an earthen pan or mortar with a spatula or spoon. Put them into a pot with an equal quantity of lime that has been well slaked with water, to make it just thick enough to be kneaded. Stir this mixture without adding any more water, and a white colored fluid will be obtained, which will serve as a paint.

It is laid on with a brush, as any other paint. It spreads easily, but should be used on the same day it is mixed, or it will become too thick. Some colors, as Prussian blue, for instance, are changed by the action of the lime; but the Ochre does well, such as the red or yellow. After becoming dry, it may be rubbed down with a clean woolen cloth, when it will become bright as varnish. It may be varnished over with whites of eggs, which will give it a lustre, and it will last very long in dry and unexposed places.

## MAKING MAPLE SUGAR.

H. M. Chandler, of St. Armand, Canada East, in the St. Albans, Vt. Messenger, gives the following description of his method of making maple sugar:

"In the first place, I make the buckets, holders, &c., perfectly clean and free from acid, strain the sap through a coarse linen cloth into the holders, in which there has previously been put one or two quarts of ground Plaster of Paris. For each Pouchon of sap also put one quart of Plaster in the Boiler. While boiling strain the syrup through a coarse linen into a deep tub, (buckets will answer) let it stand twelve to twenty-four hours to settle, then turn the clear syrup from the sediment into a Brass Kettle. To Sugar off, cleanse with one quart of milk for 100 lbs. of sugar, and boil as fast as it can be kept in the kettle, keeping the fire under the bottom. When done enough to make soft-cake sugar, turn it into a tub while hot and cover it up. After four or five weeks, tap it at the bottom and let the Molasses drain off, keep damp cloths on the top, changing them from time to time. More Plaster than is mentioned above should be used if the weather is warm—there is but little danger in using too much at any time.

The benefit derived from the Plaster consists in neutralizing the free acid in the sap, in preventing it becoming sour, in preventing the formation of coloring matter, and in making harder and more perfect crystals by which a more perfect separation of the Molasses from the sugar is obtained."

THE KROLLMANS. Gustave and Madame Krollman gave one of their excellent musical entertainments at Winthrop Hall, in this city, on Monday evening last. The performances were exceedingly well received. These accomplished musicians were to give another concert at the same place on Tuesday evening.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

The members elect of the new City Council assembled on Monday, at the Common Council Room, and after the examination of credentials, were qualified, by taking the customary oath.

The Common Council was called to order by Mr. Robinson, and organized by the election of Samuel Titcomb, Esq., as President, and Wm. H. Wheeler, as Clerk.

Both boards then adjourned to the City Hall above, and the oath of office was administered to the Mayor elect, Col. John A. Pettinling, by the City Clerk, after which the Mayor delivered his Inaugural Address.

In convention, the following officers were elected:

City Clerk—Daniel C. Stanwood.

City Marshal—Geo. W. Jones.

Overseers of the Poor—Edward Fenn, Thos. Little, J. P. Dillingham.

City Solicitor—Sewall Lancaster.

City Physician—Jos. W. Ellis.

Superintending School Committee—(one member out each year by the new law.) David Fales, re-elected.

Surveyors of Lumber—Wm. Doe, Lot Hamlen, Eleazar Smith, J. W. Lawson, J. F. Gannett, E. K. Robinson, Luther I. Wall, D. Goldner, S. C. Gage, J. S. Whitney, John Barnett, S. G. Hodgkins, A. Combs, T. C. Allen, Jas. Safford, A. Hovey, A. Kelley, D. A. Fairbanks, E. Ballard, A. R. Nichols, P. S. Percival, Oren Leonard, John H. Church.

Measures of Wood and Bark—Thos. Wadsworth, J. F. Gannett, P. S. Percival, John S. Leighton, M. Faught, Wm. Doe, Jas. Davis, J. G. Phinney, Jas. Safford, Rufus Whitten, Perez Hamlen, J. L. Dutton, Lot Hamlen, Gilman Turner, J. W. Bangs, Stephen Winslow, A. R. Nichols, Wm. Stevens, Levi Hicks, Asa Williams.

Joint Standing Committees were appointed, as follows:

On Highways—His Honor the Mayor; Ald. Townsend and McFarland; Messrs. Barrows, Cummings and Saunders.

New Streets—Ald. Howins and Townsend; Messrs. Hamlen, Kimball and Spaulding.

Bells and Clocks—Ald. Sawyer and Freeman; Messrs. Swan, Church and Lyon.

Accounts—Ald. Hallett and Lancaster; Messrs. Robinson, Kilburn and Swan.

Burying Grounds—Ald. Freeman and Howins; Messrs. Saunders, Lyon and Spaulding.

Finance—Ald. Lancaster and Sawyer; Messrs. Little, Church, Dillingham and Titcomb.

Schools, &c.—Ald. Hallett and Townsend; Messrs. Dillingham, Sawtelle and Percival.

Fire Department—Ald. Sawyer and Hallett; Messrs. Swan, Dutton and Hall.

Printing—Ald. McFarland and Hallett; Messrs. Kilburn, Bicknell and Percival.

Enrolled Ordinances—Ald. Freeman and Lancaster; Messrs. Hamlen, Kimball and Greenwood.

City Buildings—Ald. Sawyer and Townsend; Messrs. Sawtelle, Clark and Bicknell.

In Board of Aldermen, Messrs. Lancaster, Sawyer and Townsend, were appointed a committee to draw up resolutions and restrictions, relative to the sale of liquors by the City Agent.

Next meeting, Saturday next, 2 o'clock P. M.

For the above list of appointments, &c., we are indebted to Mr. Wheeler, Clerk of the Common Council.

## EDITORIAL TABLE.

THE WORKING FARMER. This spirited publication, edited by Prof. Fames, has commenced its fourth volume. The Professor is ardent in his pursuit, and indefatigable in his endeavors to rouse up the spirit and energy of the farmers of the Union, in improving their minds and their farms in a scientific and systematic manner. His labors have been productive of good, and we hope they will be long successfully continued. The Working Farmer is published monthly, at New York, by Fred. McCready, at \$1 per year, in advance.

THE PLOUGH, LOOM & ANVIL. The March number of this publication contains a good article on internal improvements, and many other valuable articles on practical agriculture. This periodical is an unwearied advocate of a strong tariff, and hits its opponents right and left. It has been its effort, however, in regard to the condition of Houlton in Maine, and of course, its inferences in regard to the cause of that condition are wrong. Houlton is on the boundary line, and is full of live Yankees who know the way to and from the Province by moonlight or starlight; and, tariff or no tariff, they are "bound" to live, at any rate.

ARVING'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ANECDOTES. The 8th, and last, number of this series of anecdotes, (Literature and the Fine Arts), has been received. This will make what may be called a valuable minute book to have on hand at the centennial or other convenient place, to take up during a moment's leisure, and which may afford amusement and instruction in small parcels, each complete in itself. Gould & Lincoln, publishers, Boston.

AMERICAN WHIG REVIEW. The March No. of this work has an article addressed to the farmers of America, in which is contained much statistical information—all of the statistics quoted, probably from the best authority they could find, are not correct. The wheat crop of Maine, for 1880 is put down at 367,980 bushels. Our crop of that year was much diminished, but it was certainly more than that. Without reference to its political cast, the article contains much valuable matter, and the other articles in this number are vigorous and interesting.

## STATISTICAL SCRAPS FROM THE GENIUS OF 1880.

COTTON GOODS. Maine has a capital of \$3,329,700 invested in the manufacture of cotton goods. She uses up 3581 bales of cotton per year—employs 780 males and 2950 females. The average wages of the males are \$29.25 per month, and of the females \$12.15. [We think there is some mistake in this. Ed.] The number of yards of sheeting manufactured per year is 32,552,556, and the value of all the products of cotton manufacture is \$2,596,356.

WOOLEN GOODS. Maine has a capital of \$467,000 invested in woolen manufactures. She uses up 1,434,350 lbs. of wool, worth \$595,050—employs 310 males and 315 females. Average wages of males, per month, \$29.27, and of females, \$11.77—manufactures 1,032,020 yards of cloth, worth \$753,000. Maine stands the ninth State in the Union in regard to the amount of capital invested in woolen manufactures, and the seventh in cotton manufactures.

SINGULAR SALE OF SLAVES. A negro woman and several children were sold at Goldsboro', N. C., lately, at prices ranging from \$711 to \$287. The Goldsboro' Patriot says: "They were the children of a free negro by the name of Adam Wynne, who had purchased their mother, his wife, previous to their birth. They were consequently his slaves, and he having become involved, they were sold for his debts."

BENEVOLENT. Gerrett Smith, the great abolitionist of Peterborough, N. Y., has given to the poor, within a few years, about 175,000 acres of land, and \$30,000 to those who have settled on it.

## For the Maine Farmer.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF HUNGARY.—No. 1.

BY JOHN S. LYNDE.

As the cause of Hungary is now before the country, it may not be uninteresting to the common reader, to lay a short history of it before his eyes. It is doubtful whether the events are given in chronological order, for no history of that country has been in the reach of the writer, and of course, the incidents gleaned are fragmentary.

Some centuries before the Christian era, the Goths had emigrated from the North; and some of their tribes, the Vandals, Hemi, and Lombards, had established themselves in Germany. In the second century, a vast body had fixed their residence on the banks of the sea of Asoph, and had there extended their conquests with great rapidity.

Under the reign of Valens, a Roman emperor, in about the year 364 of our era, they took possession of a Roman province, and were distinguished by the appellation of Ostrogoths, and Visigoths—or eastern and western Goths—the latter inhabiting the coasts of the Black Sea, and towards the mouth of the Danube, and the last dwelling along the banks of that majestic river.

The above-mentioned Valens was a wicked prince, and while the eastern empire was groaning under this vicious monarch, a new race of barbarians came down from the North in a resistless torrent, like the locusts of Egypt, which affected almost every quarter of Europe. These were the Huns, a race of Tartars or Siberians, unknown till then to the European nations.

When this black swarm of Hungarians first hung over Europe, about nine hundred years after the Christian era, they were mistaken by fear and superstition for the Gog and Magog of the Scriptures—the signs and forerunners of the end of the world. But still those tribes were the great fountain from which the manners and policy of all the European nations are at this day derived.

Magyar is the national and oriental denomination of the Hungarians; but among the tribes of Scythia, they are distinguished by the Greeks, under the proper and peculiar name of Turks, and the descendants of that mighty people who had conquered and reigned from China to the banks of the Volga. These people have passed through various transmigrations, so that their primitive records have perished in the smoke and conflagration of barbarian warfare; and both the truth and fiction of their rustic songs and savage history have long since been forgotten through the darkness and dust of mouldering ages.

The Hungarian language stands alone on the summit of civilization and science—instantiated, as it were, among the Slavonian dialects; but it is said that it bears a close and clear affinity to the idioms of the Fennic race of an obsolete and savage tribe, who formerly occupied the northern regions of Europe and Asia. The remains of those Fennic tribes are widely thought to be scattered from the sources of the river Ob to the shores of Lapland.

The consanguinity of the Hungarians with the inhabitants of the extreme north, would display the powerful energy of climate on the children of a common parent—the lively contrast between the bold and warlike adventurers, who are now intoxicated with the wines of the Danube, of fame and eloquence, and the wretched tribes of their primitive land immersed beneath the snows of their primeval cold.

Extreme cold has diminished the stature, and congealed the faculties of the arctic inhabitants, who are ignorant of war and unconscious of human blood, while arms and freedom have become the ruling, though too often unsuccessful, passion of the Hungarians, who are endowed, by climate and circumstances, with a vigorous magnanimity of soul, and athletic form of body.

Except the merit and fame of military prowess, all that is valuable to mankind appeared contemptible to the ancient Hungarians; and this warfare in Europe was like that of Caliph Omar in Africa, by the Saracens, some centuries before, who, in the enthusiastic procyonism of their faith, overwhelmed in the general wreck, the arts, sciences and literature, and encouraged to destroy every record of the former progress of the human mind. And it is not a little extraordinary, that this same people were destined, at a more advanced period, to re-kindle the light of letters which they had taken so much pains to extinguish, and to become the inventors and cultivators of a new science, boundless in its views and inexhaustible in its application. This new science is arithmetic. The numerals, on which the modern system of arithmetic is founded, were received from the Saracens. Thus light arose out of darkness, order out of confusion, and taste out of barbarism.

The sons of the barbarians began to dilute that literature which their fathers had destroyed, and to weep over the ruins of those volumes, sculptures, paintings and buildings, which they could not restore.

It was so with the Hungarians. Their native fierceness was stimulated by the consciousness of numbers and freedom. Their tents were of leather, their garments of fur—they shaved their hair and slashed their faces. In speech they were slow, in action prompt—in treaty perfidious; and they shared the common reproach of barbarians, too ignorant to conceive the importance of truth, too proud to deny or palliate the breach of their most solemn engagements. They were thus in the first centuries of the Christian era, but what are they now in the nineteenth century? A mighty nation in Europe, mid way between the crescent and the cross, surrounded by Ottomans on one side, and Christian tyrants on the other—filled with deep-seated love of freedom, they have struggled heroically to maintain it. Their gallant spirits have been crushed, but not subdued. Hungary has fallen, but she fell gloriously to rise again! She has faithfully redeemed herself from her ancient barbarism—give her then the loftiest places among the proud nobles of earth, and pour out at her feet, and joy to her who has nobly done, no nobly dared to shed her blood in defence of the injured rights of humanity!

Thus, from this warlike tribe of Huns have risen a mighty nation—a mighty Hungary, who in the east has sounded the first trumpet, and unfurled the flag of liberty to ring through the ears, and wave over the heads of earth. Her cause is before the world, and her Kosuth before the country, veeping over the solitude of Hungary's desolation; and her sad grievances cannot be uttered by any lips but his own. He has uttered them in glowing and deathless eloquence; and in her future struggles, if intrepidity and patriotism shall fail to plant a trophy on her soil, her noble and heroic spirits will raise a laurel over her ashes! She is a phenomenon in the eastern world without a parallel—God bless her name! God bless the noble descendants of the brave Huns! Their present is melancholy, but their destiny glorious!

The Huns, after subduing a part of ancient Pannonia, now Slavonia, communicated their name to it, and called it Hungary. They were succeeded by the Goths—the Goths were expelled by the Lombards in the beginning of the ninth century.

Hungary has been successively occupied by three Scythian colonies, namely, the Huns of Attila, the Avars in the sixth century, and the Turks or Magyars in 896—the immediate ancestors of the modern Hungarians, whose connection with the two former is extremely faint and remote.

At the close of the ninth century, a tribe emigrated from the banks of the Volga, and took possession of the country. Hungary was formerly an assemblage of different States, and the first who assumed the title of king was Stephen, in the year 997, when he embraced christianity. In his reign, the form of government was established, and the crown was made elective.

After the year 1310, king Charles Robert ascended the throne, and subdued Bulgaria, Servia, Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and many other provinces; but many of those conquests were reduced by the Venetians, Turks and other powers. In the fifteenth century, Huniades, who was guardian to the infant king Ladislaus, bravely repulsed the Turks when they invaded Hungary, and upon the death of Ladislaus, the Hungarians, in 1438, raised Mathias Corvinus, son of Huniades, to their throne. Huniades, for sixteen years, rendered himself so formidable to the Ottomans, that they surmised him the Devil. Corvinus was a good king. He was illustrious as a warrior, a legislator, and a patron of learning. Though perpetually engaged in war, to protect his country from its surrounding foes, yet he enacted good laws, gave the Hungarians a character, introduced printing, founded a university and library at Buda, and invited learned men into his dominions.

For the Maine Farmer.

## MANAGEMENT OF TOWN ROADS.

"The common roads of the United States are inferior to those of any other country." [Gillespie.]

"The money levied is more than double what is necessary for executing in the simplest manner the work which is so often executed in the most slovenly manner, and sometimes not executed at all." [Adams Smith.]

The reason of the truth of the above statements is owing entirely to the system of road management, which is radically wrong. In France, four years are necessary to fit a man for what corresponds to our Road Commissioner, in Prussia five, in Russia three, and in England a man who would hold an office of this kind must fit himself by previous practice under some professional engineer. But in America, any man, tradesman or mechanic, may, without a moment's preparation, take upon himself the responsibility of spending the public funds on one of the most difficult arts, requiring either very considerable practice, or at least some knowledge of mathematics and mechanics. As long as this system is in operation, we cannot, of course, expect to see our money expended to the most advantage.

A great defect of the present system is the annual election of commissioners. If men not educated for this business are to be entrusted with the roads, when they have acquired a little insight into the business, even at the expense of the roads, they should, at least, not be removed from office for the sake of rotation, as if road making was a luxury which must not be monopolized by a few, but every man must taste it.

Gillespie, in his treatise on Roads and Railroads, says:—"In most occupations an apprenticeship of some years is thought necessary for a man who would practice with his own capital, while a road overseer is thought fit to spend the capital of a town, on a work requiring much science, at the moment he is chosen. A good plowman does not think himself necessarily competent to forge the coulter of his plough, or to put together its wood work; he knows it is sruer economy for him to pay a mechanic for his services; but the laws assume him to be a skillful roadmaker, a much more difficult art than ploughmaking, and compel him to act as one, though his clumsiness in repairing his plough would injure himself only, while his road blunders are hurtful to the whole community. Skill in any art is only to be acquired by practical and successful experience, aided by the instructions of those who already possess it."

Long roads passing through a large part of the State, or even through a county, particularly near routes, should be built by the counties, and not by the towns, through which they pass; for a road of this kind should be equally well built in all its parts, which would not be done by the towns, on the line, unless all the towns were equally able and willing to do their part.

"In regulating the expenditure of the money raised," says Gillespie, "the fundamental principles, dictated by the trust and most far sighted economy, should be to sacrifice a portion of the resources of the road, to ensure the good employment of the remainder."

The system in France, which is decidedly the most perfect, can be very nearly applied to our country. As separate towns are not able, each county should employ an engineer who understands both the principles and practice of road-making and bridge-building, and who should receive a salary sufficient to enable him to devote himself exclusively to the laying out, altering, and repairing the roads under his charge. "On his skill will depend the state of the roads, more than on local expenditure. His qualifications should be tested by a competent board of examiners."

"The engineer thus appointed should employ, in each town, an active man to act as his deputy in making the expenditures for that town. This deputy might be profitably employed in passing and repassing over his line of road, and making himself the slight repairs which the continual wear and tear would render necessary. If taken in time, he could, himself, or with one assistant, perform them, as a general thing, but if left unattended to, as is usual, to the season of general repairs, the damage would increase in a geometrical ratio, and perhaps cause an accident to a traveller, which would subject the town to tenfold the cost of repairs."

The laborers hired by the deputy should be employed by the quantity of work done, and not by the time; but in work not susceptible of definite calculation, as to quantity, and in such only, may day labor be resorted to, under constant and vigilant superintendence. By employing men educated entirely for this business, and by adopting a system somewhat similar to the above, we shall soon see a change for the better in our town and county roads. Geo. L. Vose.

Augusta, March 12, 1882.

ESCAPE OF HORACE BONNEY. This distinguished counterfeiter made his escape from the jail in our city some time during Friday night last. The jailer, on Saturday morning, found all the doors, from the street to Bonney's cell, open, and the bird flown. The doors had all been regularly unlocked, the feet having been successfully accomplished by Bonney's friends from the outside, by means of false keys. The escape is a decided triumph of "outside influence."

A reward of \$500 is offered for the capture of the convict. Bonney has been convicted on two indictments for passing and having in his possession, counterfeit money—on which he would probably have been sentenced to eight or ten years in the State Prison. [Journal.]

FROZEN FISH. A gentleman in the vicinity of this city, a few weeks since, used to us that in filling his ice-house from a pond, a number of small fish, (chiefly eel and buffalo species) were discovered frozen into a block of ice. The block was about three feet square by ten inches thick, and quite transparent. Means were then taken to extricate the fish, without injuring them, and in a short time they were completely resuscitated from their stupor, and commenced swimming around. [St. Louis Rep.]

## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &amp;c.

Hallowell. Benjamin Wales, Esq., has been nominated by the Governor, Judge of the Municipal Court in the new city of Hallowell.

New England Female College. The sum of \$1,600 has been subscribed by ten persons in Boston, New Bedford, Worcester and Brookline for the purpose of purchasing a set of anatomical and physiological apparatus for the above named institution.

Bangor. Elijah L. Hamlin was re-elected Mayor of Bangor, on Monday, of last week, almost unanimously; he obtained 1780 votes; all others 65.

Kentucky. A Democratic Convention met at Louisville, Ky., on the 9th. Upon a division there were 101 in favor of Cass for the Presidency, and 72 in favor of Douglas. Mr. Buchanan's name was withdrawn, and Cass electors were appointed.

A railroad Company. Rutland county, Vermont, has now completed within its own limits, one hundred miles of railroad, all centering to its common central point in Rutland. These roads pass through twelve important towns of the county, and touch upon and pass through portions of two others.

Shooting in Virginia. Samuel A. Smith was shot dead in Amelia county, Virginia, last week, by A. L. Tucker. Smith occupied his bosom and told him to shoot, when Tucker took him in his word. Both were sons of respectable parents, but intemperate.

Avareous fool. Mr. Oliver Clark, of Southampton, killed some fowl recently, and found in the gizzard of one of them, two five-cent pieces. Biddy had perhaps been imbued with the money getting spirit of the age.

Death by presentiment. Capt. George Huggins, late a citizen of Mobile, died on the 24th of February, a victim to a superstitious presentiment. In the full belief that he would expire on that day, he the week before bought his grave and his coffin, and after only a day's sickness, died on the 24th, between one and two o'clock P. M.

Steamers for the Nicaragua Route. Contracts were concluded in New York, on Friday, for two new steamships, to be built in that city, for the Pacific side of the Nicaragua route.

Madagascar. The Queen of Madagascar, a troublesome female potentate, died in November last, after the degradation of the flower of her army in a contest with a belligerent chief. The death of this Queen is an event of some importance in removing a serious impediment to commercial intercourse with that country.

Preparing for the Maine Law. The Newburyport Union says, "within a short time, several of our liquor dealers have discontinued the traffic, and others are selling out, with no intention of replenishing their stock. Among the changes, one public, and one fashionable saloon, have removed their bars, and quit the business."

The Slave Trade in Cuba. Letters from Cuba of the 29th ult., make mention of the continued importation of slaves, although General Concha has the credit of doing all in his power to suppress the trade. On the 24th ult., 610 negroes were landed at Sivia Morena, and a cargo had been landed nearly in sight of Moro Castle.

Explosion. The steamer Mary Kingsland, which exploded her boiler below New Orleans, on the 3d inst., killed George Harney, the engineer, George S. Giles, the pilot, and three of the deck hands, and seriously injured a number of others.

United States and France. The National-Intelligencer contradicts the rumors of differences between the Government of the United States and that of France. Nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony existing between the two countries. Our Government according to its uniform usage in such cases, has recognized the existing authorities of France, and there is no ground to apprehend collision upon any point.

Maine Law in New Jersey. The New Jersey Assembly have rejected the Maine law, 53 to 46.

A Race on Snow Shoes. A grand race on snow shoes came off near Montreal on the 20th ult. The contestants in the race were soldiers belonging to the garrison at Montreal. The first prize, \$5, was given to Private Moore of the Twentieth Regiment, who ran half a mile in three minutes.

Pennsylvania. Of 123 Delegates to the Pennsylvania Democratic State Convention, 100 are known to be in favor of Judge Buchanan for the Presidency. Of these, 87 have been instructed to vote for him. At the State Convention, it was moved that the Convention unanimously concur in the nomination of Buchanan, and it was carried, yeas, 102, nays, 30. A protest against the action of the majority is signed by 24 delegates.

Great Cargo. The ship Winchester, of Boston, cleared at New Orleans for Liverpool, with 5,752 bales of cotton—the largest cargo of cotton ever known.

Delaware. The Whig members of the Legislature of Delaware have nominated Winfield Scott for President, and recommend June 17 next, and Philadelphia, as the time and place for the Whig National Convention.

Important, if True. Under this head the New York Express states that letters from Paris announce that the British Government has officially informed the French Government that the moment a French soldier is sent across the Belgian territory, the city of Antwerp and the forts on the Scheldt will be occupied with an English army of ten thousand men.

More "chickadee." A difficulty occurred at Edgfield, (S. C.) on the 2d inst., between Mr. Eldred Glover and Dr. Samuels, which resulted in the former being shot through. He died the next day.

"Material aid." The Cincinnati Gazette says the sum total of material aid received by Louis Kosuth in Cincinnati is within a fraction of \$14,000. Of this amount, \$9,000 were donated, and the remainder, \$5,000, resulted from the sale of bonds.

Kosuth Leave. Ladies of Bangor held a Hungarian Levee on the evening of the 2d inst. A large number of citizens and strangers attended, and a considerable sum was raised for the Hungarian cause by disposing of Kosuth bonds.

Paying dear. Alexander Dolan of Brooklyn, N. Y., feeling more than commonly ferocious, took the liberty of biting off another man's ear, and has just been sentenced to the State Prison for seven years to pay for it.

Large Stair. Mr. Hill, a pork packer of Mount Union, Iowa, offered a premium for the heaviest hog killed at his house. There were five competitors for the premium, and the weight of the largest hogs ranged from 719 to 770 pounds.

German papers. There are 133 German papers published in the United States, the oldest of which, published in Pennsylvania, has been established sixty-three years.

Repairs of the Library. It is estimated that the repairs to the Congressional Library at Washington, will cost \$72,500. The alcoves, wash, galleries, doors, window shutters, ceilings, and brackets that support them, are all designed to be of cast iron; the shelves for the books, of thick plate glass or enamelled iron; the framing of the roof, of wrought iron







